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16 July

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16 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion on Opportunities within ORR for Utilization
of Electronic Data Processing Machines (EDPM)

1. On 14 July the group assembled, which included the Chiefs of the Research Areas and some of the OAD Staff Chiefs, as well as the DAD/RR, looked over the terms of reference for a possible study of EDPM applications in the DD/I area as presented to CRAG and were briefed by [REDACTED] on a discussion which took place at the CRAG meeting of 10 July. He pointed out that we should address ourselves to electronic machines as opposed to IBM punch-card machines.

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2. It was immediately apparent that there would be difficulty in distinguishing between sub-analytical and analytical tasks and the more basic tasks of ordering and selecting which might be done by both electronic machines as well as by the IBM punch-card types.

3. Another fact that became clearly evident was the inability of our group, because of lack of knowledge about capabilities of different machines, to make more than a very rough survey of areas of potential use of EDPM, and even then with little knowledge of comparative cost -- man-hours or otherwise.

4. The following potential areas were mentioned as involving large masses of data, comprising low-grade ore which could be economically exploited only by the use of machines. The objective of such exploitation carries high priority but it is difficult to evaluate the priority need for such exploitation by machines.

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5. It was also felt that, as soon as comprehensive systems
of accounts can be established within the area of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the utilization of EDPM would greatly facilitate
analyses responsive to differing sets of requirements.

6. It was felt by Dr. Allen that the aggregative work con-
ducted within the Analysis Division was of such a nature that
machine analysis of data would not be needed. Considering the
objectives of the research conducted in the Analysis Division and
the needs of the intelligence community in regard to Sino-Soviet
Bloc economic growth, it would seem impractical to try to develop
and maintain a detailed economic matrix.

7. There was some thought given to the possibility of
utilizing machine processing in maintaining the estimates file.

8. There was also a sneaking suspicion on the part of some
that the masses of detailed data on installations found in some
of the Branches of the Materials Division might be more efficiently
handled if initially stored for subsequent machine analysis.

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[REDACTED]
OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

- 2 -

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